

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:  
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the  
4 clearance levels;  
5 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and  
6 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than  
7 the lowest clearance level.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge  
3 visibility status.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:  
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge  
3 visibility status.

1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:  
2 recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity  
3 log.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing step includes the step of:  
2 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to  
3 the smart badges.

1       6.     The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:  
2            preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to  
3            invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1       7.     The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2            writing data items to the smart badges.

1       8.     The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:  
2            pre-reading the data item from the smart badge during idle periods.

1       9.     The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of  
2            defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge  
3            has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1       10.    The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2            assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and  
3            de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration  
4            period has been exceeded.

1       11.    The method of claim 1 wherein the assigning each smart badge step includes the  
2            step of:  
3            configuring a predetermined smart badge visibility range.

1 12. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:  
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the  
4 clearance levels;  
5 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;  
6 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than  
7 the lowest clearance level;  
8 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge  
9 visibility status; and  
10 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge  
11 visibility status.

1 13. A computer-readable medium embodying computer program code for context-aware  
2 computer management, comprising the steps of:  
3 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
4 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the  
5 clearance levels;  
6 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and  
7 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than  
8 the lowest clearance level.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of:  
2 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge  
3 visibility status.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:  
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge  
3 visibility status.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the providing step includes the  
2 step of:  
3 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to  
4 the smart badges.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:  
2 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to  
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of  
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge  
3 has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:  
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and  
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration  
4 period has been exceeded.

1 20. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:

2 means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
3 means for assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of  
4 the clearance levels;  
5 means for identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;  
6 means for providing access over the computer to database information having  
7 clearance levels no higher than the lowest clearance level;  
8 means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in  
9 smart badge visibility status; and  
10 means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in  
11 smart badge visibility status.

1 21. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:  
2 a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;  
3 a first beacon;  
4 a set of smart badges, in visible communication with the first beacon, each badge  
5 assigned one of the clearance levels;  
6 a system service module, coupled to the beacon, for identifying a lowest clearance  
7 level assigned to the smart badges; and  
8 a software application, coupled to the service module and the database, for  
9 providing access to information within the database having clearance levels no higher  
10 than the lowest clearance level.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:  
2 a wide angle RF beacon.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting  
3 smart badges within a workroom.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:  
2 biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an  
3 assigned smart badge wearer.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the service module defines a smart badge  
2 visibility status, and recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in the  
3 visibility status.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge wearers  
2 assigned to visible smart badges onto a computer.